

HAT

HAT is the name of any of several kinds of coverings for the head. A hat consists of a *crown*, the part that fits on the head; and, in most cases, a circular *brim*. Hats differ from other head coverings, such as bonnets, caps, helmets, and hoods, most of which have a small brim or no brim. But the word *hat*, as used in this article, refers to such brimless headgear as well.

Hats vary widely in material and style, depending largely on the climate and people's customs. For example, a Russian farmer wears a snug fur hat to protect

himself from the cold. A South American cowboy wears a felt gaucho hat as part of his traditional costume. The members of each branch of a nation's armed services wear a different type of hat as part of their uniform. People also wear hats as an important accessory to their clothing. As a result, fashion often determines the styles of hat that are worn.

Throughout the centuries, the desire of people to be fashionable has resulted in many kinds of unusual hats. During the 1400's, many European women wore a tall,

Some Kinds of Hats Worn Today

People wear hats for several reasons. Hats may be worn for protection from the climate or from injury. People also wear hats that communicate information about their occupation. Some hats are worn for decoration. The reasons for wearing hats cause much variety in hat styles throughout the world.

Hats Worn for Protection



Robert W. Young, DPI

Farmers in Indonesia



WORLD BOOK photo

Construction Worker in the U.S.



Howard Sochurek, Woodfin Camp Inc.

Herdsman in Siberia

Hats Worn for Communication



H. Taylor, De Wys, Inc.

Bishops in Greece



George Nelson, Artstreet

Bullfighter in Mexico



Alex Webb, Magnum

Policewoman in the United States

Hats Worn for Decoration



Woodfin Camp Inc.

Woman in Africa



WORLD BOOK photo

Couple in the United States



Werner Stoy, DPI

Girls in Taiwan